

National Agricultural Summary

June 5 - 11, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Crop conditions deteriorated in the central Great Plains due to extreme heat and serious moisture shortages, while rain and milder temperatures relieved crop stress in the southwestern Corn Belt. Field activities continued with only brief rain delays in the eastern Corn Belt, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast. Fieldwork was unhindered in the

central and northern Great Plains, but rain delayed field operations in parts of the southern Great Plains. Cooler-than-normal weather slowed crop development in the Pacific Coast States, most of the lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast, and adjacent areas of the southern Great Plains and Ohio River Valley.

Winter Wheat: Ninety-six percent of the crop was at the heading stage or beyond, and 18 percent was harvested. Acreage headed or beyond was 1 week ahead of last year and more than 1 week ahead of the 90-percent average for this date. Above normal temperatures, including many triple-digit temperatures, accelerated ripening in the central and northern Great Plains. Wheat headed advanced 18 percentage points in South Dakota, to 87 percent, more than double the normal rate. In Kansas, 57 percent of the wheat was ripe, compared with 14 percent last year and the 5-year average of 11 percent. In Idaho and Washington, about one-fourth of the acreage entered the heading stage during the week. In the Corn Belt, 90 percent of the wheat was headed in Michigan, 42 percent was turning color in Ohio, and 28 percent was ripe in Illinois. Development was well ahead of normal in these 3 States.

The harvest pace was also 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. Harvest rapidly progressed in the southern Great Plains and lower Mississippi Valley, especially in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Producers in both States harvested more than one-third of the acreage during the week. Harvest also accelerated in California, Missouri, and North Carolina. Harvest began in Kansas, where growers harvested 9 percent of the acreage, and along the Ohio River Valley in the southern Corn Belt. Conditions deteriorated in the central and northern Great Plains due to hot weather and severe moisture shortages.

Corn: Above-normal temperatures accelerated development in the central and northern Great Plains and across the northern Corn Belt. However, fields in Nebraska and Colorado suffered due to extreme heat and increasing moisture shortages. Mild temperatures and adequate moisture supplies aided crop development in Texas, while favorably drier weather improved conditions in Wisconsin. Excess moisture stressed some fields in Pennsylvania. Rain prevented widespread deterioration in the southwestern Corn Belt, but moisture reserves remained low.

Soybeans: Ninety-three percent of the acreage was planted, compared with 89 percent last year and more than 2 weeks ahead of the 5-year average for this date. Planting steadily progressed in the lower Ohio and Mississippi Valleys and along Atlantic Coastal Plains. Planting advanced more than 20 percentage points in Tennessee and more than 10 percentage points in Arkansas, Kentucky, and North Carolina. Wet soils hampered progress in Michigan, where planting was 20 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Emergence, at 87 percent, was well ahead of last year's 75-percent pace. Above-normal temperatures and adequate moisture supplies promoted rapid emergence in the northern Great Plains, advancing 20 and 12 percentage points in North and South Dakota. Warm, sunny weather also promoted rapid emergence in Michigan. In Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee, mostly adequate moisture supplies aided germination and emergence. Thirteen percent emerged in Kansas during the week, even though moisture shortages increased. Conditions deteriorated in Nebraska, and to a lesser

degree in South Dakota, due to extreme heat and severe moisture shortages. Warm, dry weather favored crop development in Wisconsin, as soybean fields recovered from standing water and saturated soils.

Small grains: Spring wheat was 7 percent headed, compared with 2 percent last year and the normal pace of 3 percent. The barley crop was 12 percent headed, ahead of last year and the average of 6 and 5 percent, respectively. Development was most advanced in Washington, where 40 percent of the spring wheat and 42 percent of the barley were headed. Heading also rapidly advanced in Idaho. Spring wheat conditions partially recovered in Montana due to much-needed rainfall. Twenty-one percent of the oat acreage was headed, 8 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Above-normal temperatures aided rapid development in Iowa and Nebraska, where nearly two-thirds of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage. In Ohio, more than one-half of the acreage was heading. Conditions rapidly deteriorated in Nebraska due to extreme heat and severe moisture shortages.

Cotton: Planting was 93 percent complete, behind last year's 95-percent pace, but 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was active in South Carolina and Texas, advancing 10 percentage points in both States despite rain delays in some areas. Twenty percent of the cotton was at or beyond the squaring stage, equal to the 5-year average and slightly ahead of this date last year. Despite below-normal temperatures, development accelerated in the Mississippi Delta and Southeast, especially in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri, where squaring advanced 20 or more percentage points. Light rainfall prevented further crop deterioration in many areas of the Southeast, but moisture shortages remained serious.

Rice: Five percent of the crop was headed, slightly ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Development was most advanced in Louisiana and Texas, where 20 and 18 percent, respectively, was headed.

Sorghum: Eighty-six percent of the sorghum acreage was planted, more than 1 week ahead of last year's 72-percent pace and 16 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was active in the Great Plains, especially in Colorado and South Dakota, although progress lagged behind normal in Colorado. Planting advanced more than 10 percentage points in Kansas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

Other crops: Six percent of the peanut acreage was pegging, slightly ahead of last year's pace. Development was most advanced in Florida and Georgia. Dry soils stressed peanuts in Alabama and Florida, while Georgia growers irrigated fields to maintain conditions. Eighty-eight percent of the sunflower acreage was planted, as progress rapidly advanced in Colorado, Kansas, and South Dakota.